

NORTHERN MICHIGAN MEET OF CHAMPIONS



MEET SCHEDULE: Saturday, Oct. 18th 2025

COURSE OPENS	7:00 am
OPEN RUN	8:30 am
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS	9:30 am
MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS	10:15 am
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS	10:45 am
MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS	11:15 am
TROPHY PRESENTATION	NOON

AWARDS:

MEDALS: Top 50 runners in each Varsity HS & MS race

JV Races, if needed are top 25 per gender

THREE DIVISIONS for trophies; **TOP 2-3 TEAMS PER GENDER.**

- Every 5 schools = 1 trophy. ie; 15 schools = 3 trophies
- **GIANT (5'+) COED TROPHY FOR SCHOOL WITH COMBINED LOWEST B&G TEAM SCORE.**

COST:

\$200 for High Schools / \$100 per gender * \$25 per individual

\$150 for Middle Schools / \$75 per gender * \$25 per individual

SPECTATOR FEES: **PARKING = CASH ONLY \$5 per person or \$10 per car**

\$25 = Pre-Registered Open 5k

\$30 = Day of Registration Open 5k

- **ALL BUSES USE WEST ENTRANCE.** There's NO ROOM to turn a bus around at the East entrance!!!
- **Two locations for SPECTATOR parking.** East side = Walter Rd. West side = S. 39 Rd.
- **Donuts, cider, and team pumpkins:** Donuts and cider can be picked up by a coach at the awards area
- **EXPANDED STARTING LINE !!!** Yes, we're going to be adding a few more boxes next summer!
- Our course can hold about 300 runners per race. If any race grows past that we'll have to add a JV race.

ORANGE SCHOOLS

Buckley
GTA
Bear Lake
LLSM
Ellsworth
Woodland
Mesick
Mancelona

Bellaire
Breckenridge
Brethren
Buckley
TC Christian
Petoskey St. Michael
N. Trails
Lincoln-Alcona

BLACK SCHOOLS

Tawas
Pine River
Clare
Houghton Lake
Manton
TCSF
Harbor Springs
Manistee

Elk Rapids
Houghton Lake
Kalkaska
Kingsley
Lake City
Tawas
Central Montcalm
Lakeview

WHITE SCHOOL

TC West
TC East
Cadillac
Shepherd
Alpena

Gaylord
Gladwin

***** 2025 Divisions *****

High School Divisions: Based on our current entries on anet we will have three divisions for the high school part of our event. D1 & D2 schools in one division, D3 in another, and D4 in another. Our top priority is to run one varsity race with all schools involved. We'd like to allow 10 runners per school but will reduce down to 7 if needed, but we are also considering allowing unlimited entries in the races if we can keep the total under 300.

High & Middle School Awards:

- **Top 50 runners in each high school races earn a medal; *passed out in chute***
- **1st & 2nd place Girls & Boys High School teams in each division will earn a trophy.**
- **The school with the lowest combined COED score from their division will earn a large COED combined trophy.** Similar to a road race this overall winner is then removed from their division trophy results, which allows others to move up.
- If needed, the JV race will medal the top 25 per gender

TIMING: by michianatiming.com.

- **Live results** can be found at **FATRESULTS.COM** & then on athletic.net
- We will have timing mats at the 1 & 2 mile marks as well as the finish line
- **DO NOT CROSS A TIMING MATS (1 & 2 mile marks & finish line) while warming up or it will cause your race time to start.**

- **Porta Potties will be available.**
- **Food trucks will be available.**

BOX ASSIGNMENTS: We have removed a bench to the north of the starting line. This has allowed the expansion of the starting line. We currently have 27 boxes but we'll be able to comfortably handle 30-35 varsity (7-10) teams on the starting line at once. **Box assignments will be written on your coaches packet pickup.**

SPECTATOR PARKING: TWO SEPARATE PARKING LOCATIONS!!!

- **7545 East 34 Rd / West Entrance:** between Habitat for Humanity Resale Store and Fastenal off of Boon Rd. This location has more parking spots for spectators, (including handicap accessible) and is closer to the starting line. ***ALL BUSES MUST USE WEST ENTRANCE**
- **3740 41 Rd / East Entrance:** turn is in between B&P Manufacturing and Cadillac Wholesale Tire. This location is closer to the finish line, as well as the food trucks. This area will also have its own porta potties and a picnic pavilion.
- Parking is \$5 person, \$10 max car. **CASH ONLY**
- **ALL PARKING PROCEEDS GO TO THE VETERAN SERVING VETERANS PARK.** This meet and others like it are one of their major sources of income they use to serve our veterans and community. Please make sure your parents and spectators know they will need cash to park as well as where the money goes! Please consider making a donation to the park via this link: <http://vetservingvets.org>

CONTACT INFO:

High School Coach: Jeff Harding
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(231) 920-1951

Athletic Director: Scott Bender
sbender@mantonschools.org
(231) 824-6411

Middle School Coach: Jeff Sinkel
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(231) 429-4807

Veterans Serving Veterans 5k Course

The Veteran Serving Veterans Park is an ongoing labor of love of our local veterans who are working to create a space to heal together. The 5k course that you will all enjoy is just the first of several features that will draw people to the park. Currently a picnic pavilion is under construction at the far eastside of the park. Future plans include a music pavilion, a pond, and expansion of our parking lots. Anyone interested in helping out our cause could make financial or labor contributions at vetsservingvets.org.

One of the features that runners and spectators might notice upon arrival are the number of large engraved rocks and rock walls along our 5k course. The large engraved rocks that serve as mile markers along the course are dedicated to the Vietnam War vets that have donated thousands of hours to help the course. There are also several large engraved rocks along the course to honor local veterans as well as Kris Eggle who was a local Eagle Scout and XC runner who was killed in the line of duty as a National Park Ranger.

One of the most photographed sections of our course is known as **Military Corners**. These three "S-Curves" and their associated rock walls represent each of the branches of the service. Each branch of the military has an engraved lead rock and associated rock wall that includes the branch's name and its founding date. Military Corners is an approximate 1.5 acre section of the course located to the NW corner of the park. Depending on the season you visit our park your attention will be drawn to either the red, white or blue wild flowers growing there. These wildflowers pay homage to those that made the ultimate sacrifice during the two world wars. These poppies were planted as a show of support for the Armed Forces community, those currently serving, ex-serving personnel and their families; and a symbol of Remembrance for all those who have fallen in conflict. May God Bless the sacrifices of our brave soldiers during these two horrific wars.

RED POPPIES: During WW1, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over repeatedly. Previously beautiful landscapes turned to mud; bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow. There was a notable and striking exception to the bleakness - the bright red Flanders poppies. These resilient flowers flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, growing in the thousands upon thousands. In the spring of 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was moved by the sight of these poppies and that inspiration led him to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

BLUE BACHELOR BUTTONS: (aka Cornflowers) represent the loss of lives on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day during World War II. The average age of those that gave their lives was just nineteen years and the Blue Bachelor Buttons represent their loss.

WHITE CAMOMILE flowers represent Germany's involvement in both wars.

Please share this information with your spectators and athletes in the hopes that they will find their way around these memorials and allow these flowers to continue to bloom and share their story with the next generation.

STARTING WALL: Our starting wall has 22 boxes with each number engraved into the rocks. This number represents the number of veterans that succumb to mental health issues and take their lives each and every day in the United States. Although this is a grim statistic, it brings to light the need to increase the dialog around mental health so those that are suffering can get the help they so desperately need. For more information or to volunteer go to 222none.org.

* PLEASE inform your athletes and spectators to help us keep people and personal belongings off this very special icon of our VSV park and give it the respect our veterans deserve.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE MAP



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE MAP

Middle School course follows the same course as the high school until they reach “Military Corners” at about 1.7 mile mark. After taking the first part of the “S” curve they then hop on the two track and head to the large engraved stone that indicates the middle school turn. After this sharp corner runners head to the finish line.



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- **SECRET ROUTE TO VSV PARK:** If the corner of Mitchell & 34 Rd. @ Meijer is congested, drivers could continue north about 1.25 miles and turn west on Haring Rd known to the locals as, "Shampoochies Corner." Next, turn South onto 41 Rd. (very next rd) which will bring you to the East entrance of the VSV park.
- **The sides of E. 34 Rd / Boon Rd. will be flagged off as a NO PARKING AREA FOR 2024**